

*Shires*

Lancaster Rural District Council

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**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
AND THE  
**Sanitary Inspector**  
for the Year  
**1955**

Frank N. Shires, Ltd., Mary Street, Lancaster.



Lancaster Rural District Council

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# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

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„ W. Wilcock.

### **STAFF :**

#### **Medical Officer of Health:**

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.Sc. (Agri.), M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

#### **Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:**

KENNETH H DOCTON ° †

#### **First Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:**

CLIFFORD HYDE °

#### **Second Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:**

GEORGE SUMNER.

° Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

† Member Inst. Municipal and County Engineers.

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Public Health Department,  
5, Dalton Square, Lancaster.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Lancaster Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health Services of the Lancaster Rural District during 1955.

The levels of the various vital statistics have shown the usual fluctuations which occur as between one year and the next, but the general health of the community has remained satisfactory. The birth rate at 12.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population was the lowest recorded for some years. The death rate from all causes at 13.9 per 1,000 was a little above the average of the previous five years. Although the 6 infant deaths in 1955 put the infant mortality rate up to 37 per 1,000 live births, the average rate over the preceding 5 years was lower than that of the Administrative County. Much more reliance can be placed on long term changes in birth and death rates referred to on page 14.

The increase in the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was almost entirely due to an outbreak of measles, which affected this and the surrounding districts. Two cases of food poisoning were reported but no secondary cases were detected on this occasion. Nevertheless, the fact that cases of salmonella food poisoning have occurred in each of the last 3 years serves as a reminder of the latent dangers of this infection, especially to premises concerned with the handling of food. The new Food Hygiene Regulations, if they are to result in a narrowing of the gap between the best and the worst of such premises, will entail still closer attention and supervision from your sanitary inspectors. Progress in our catering habits depends not only on enforcement of the law but also on the support of public opinion.

The cold late spring of 1955 was followed by good weather for hay making and the fine sunny weather continued well into the autumn. This not only favoured farmers in our midst and encouraged the tourist and holiday trade in the district but enabled good progress to be made in various sewerage improvement schemes, including those at Dolphinholme, Middleton, Bolton-le-Sands and Yealand Redmayne. In reporting on the sanitary circumstances of the area the Sanitary Inspector has also drawn attention to the further improvements carried out at several of our rural schools in advancing towards abolishing the last of the dry closets.

The survey of unfit houses in the District, carried out in 1955, revealed that some 38 houses required to be demolished, 24 within the first five years. It is pleasing to note that the necessary action to deal with eight of these has already been taken. During the year also much more advantage was taken of the improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and schemes involving 44 houses were approved. Of this number twenty-two were completed resulting in the provision of much needed modern amenities.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
R. W. FARQUHAR,  
Medical Officer of Health.

**SECTION A.**

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the District (acres)  
 Population (Registrar-General's estimate) mid year 1955  
 Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books  
 Rateable Value  
 Sum represented by a Penny Rate

53,212  
 12,680  
 4,207  
 £98,821  
 £412

| Parish                        | Area in Acres |       | Population |       | Inhabited Houses |      | Rateable Value in £ |        |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------|------------|-------|------------------|------|---------------------|--------|
|                               | 1901          | 1951  | 1901       | 1951  | 1901             | 1955 | 1901                | 1954-5 |
| Aldcliffe                     | 680           | —     | 88         | —     | 16               | —    | 1612                | —      |
| Ashton-with-Stodday           | 1459          | 1295  | 181        | 95    | 37               | 26   | 3322                | 916    |
| Bolton-le-Sands               | 1579          | 1843  | 902        | 1937  | 205              | 894  | 9661                | 16110  |
| Cockerham                     | 5561          | 5926  | 677        | 637   | 119              | 154  | 8103                | 2674   |
| Cockersand Abbey              | 251           | —     | 53         | —     | 6                | —    | 538                 | —      |
| Ellel                         | 5813          | 5811  | 1812       | 2091  | 372              | 645  | 18189               | 9739   |
| Heaton-with-Oxcliffe          | 1683          | 2010  | 165        | 272   | 21               | 84   | 3257                | 3972   |
| Middleton                     | 1199          | 1400  | 172        | 478   | 30               | 136  | 1946                | 18980  |
| Overton                       | 1127          | 1799  | 323        | 356   | 70               | 149  | 3016                | 1772   |
| Over Wyresdale                | 17318         | 17346 | 464        | 415   | 85               | 98   | 6481                | 3405   |
| Priest Hutton                 | 1085          | 1085  | 172        | 172   | 41               | 56   | 2331                | 1215   |
| Scotforth                     | 2137          | 1801  | 251        | 238   | 40               | 82   | 4715                | 4739   |
| Silverdale                    | 1168          | 1850  | 592        | 1065  | 136              | 386  | 5158                | 7894   |
| Slyne-with-Hest               | 1631          | 1811  | 487        | 1634  | 103              | 598  | 9760                | 13737  |
| Thurnham                      | 1503          | 1983  | 528        | 475   | 113              | 150  | 3534                | 2434   |
| Wharton-with-Lindeth (Warton) | 2824          | 3534  | 1492       | 1671  | 329              | 583  | 12947               | 8210   |
| Yealand Conyers               | 2135          | 1582  | 267        | 212   | 54               | 73   | 3996                | 1529   |
| Yealand Redmayne              | 1581          | 2136  | 191        | 307   | 44               | 93   | 4335                | 1495   |
| Total                         | 50734         | 53212 | 8802       | 12055 | 1821             | 4207 | 101901              | 98821  |

The District is largely rural in character, and is a popular residential area. Agriculture is the most important, if not the largest industry. Other industries are quarrying, building, textiles and catering for tourists and holiday makers. By far the largest industrial undertaking is the Trimpell petroleum refinery at Middleton which absorbs a considerable proportion of labour from the Rural District and the neighbouring towns.

## SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR, 1955.

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Population : Registrar-General's Estimate, mid 1955, 12,680

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|                                                   | M. | F.   | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|------|-------|
| Live Births (Legitimate) .....                    | 79 | 78   | 157   |
| (Illegitimate) .....                              | 1  | 4    | 5     |
| Total .....                                       | 80 | 82   | 162   |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population         |    | 12.8 |       |
| Stillbirths .....                                 | 1  | 3    | 4     |
| Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births      |    | 24   |       |
| Deaths (all causes) .....                         | 93 | 83   | 176   |
| Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population         |    | 13.9 |       |
| Deaths from Maternal Causes .....                 |    | Nil  |       |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births    |    | Nil  |       |
| Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—         | M. | F.   | Total |
| Legitimate Infants .....                          | 2  | 3    | 5     |
| Illegitimate Infants .....                        | —  | 1    | 1     |
| All Infants .....                                 | 2  | 4    | 6     |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ..... |    | 37   |       |
| Deaths from Specified Diseases.                   |    |      |       |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....               |    | 18   |       |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....              |    | Nil  |       |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)             |    | Nil  |       |

# COMPARATIVE STATISTICS FOR 1955 AND THE PERIOD 1950-1954.

|                                 | Live births            |                               | Deaths<br>(all causes) |                               | Still births           |                                         | Maternal<br>Mortality               |                                         | Infant Mortality                    |                                        |                                     |                                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
|                                 | No.<br>regis-<br>tered | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>pop'n | No.<br>regis-<br>tered | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>pop'n | No.<br>regis-<br>tered | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>total<br>births | No. of<br>deaths<br>regis-<br>tered | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>total<br>births | Total                               |                                        | Neo-natal                           |                                        |
|                                 |                        |                               |                        |                               |                        |                                         |                                     |                                         | No. of<br>deaths<br>regis-<br>tered | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>live<br>births | No. of<br>deaths<br>regis-<br>tered | Rate<br>per<br>1,000<br>live<br>births |
| Year 1955                       | 162                    | *12.8                         | 176                    | †13.9                         | 4                      | 24.0                                    | Nil                                 | Nil                                     | 6                                   | 37                                     | 4                                   | 25                                     |
| Year 1954                       | 184                    | 14.8                          | 169                    | 13.6                          | 3                      | 16.0                                    | Nil                                 | Nil                                     | 2                                   | 11                                     | 2                                   | 11                                     |
| „ 1953                          | 188                    | 15.4                          | 130                    | 10.6                          | 1                      | 5.0                                     | 1                                   | 5.29                                    | 3                                   | 16                                     | 2                                   | 11                                     |
| „ 1952                          | 173                    | 14.4                          | 147                    | 12.2                          | 3                      | 17.0                                    | Nil                                 | Nil                                     | 5                                   | 29                                     | 3                                   | 17                                     |
| „ 1951                          | 185                    | 15.4                          | 164                    | 13.7                          | 5                      | 26.0                                    | Nil                                 | Nil                                     | 6                                   | 32                                     | 5                                   | 27                                     |
| „ 1950                          | 178                    | 14.7                          | 154                    | 12.7                          | 4                      | 22.0                                    | Nil                                 | Nil                                     | 8                                   | 45                                     | 6                                   | 34                                     |
| Average<br>5 years<br>1950-1954 | —                      | 14.9                          | —                      | 12.6                          | —                      | 17.3                                    | —                                   | 1.08                                    | —                                   | 26.6                                   | —                                   | 20                                     |

\* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.09) = 13.9 per 1,000 population.

† Adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 0.85) = 11.8 per 1,000 population.

## COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS.

1. **Population.** The estimated population of the District increased by 210, from 12,470 in 1954 to 12,680 in 1955. The total increase over the 1951 census figure of 12,055 has been 625 or 5.2%, only a small part of which has been due to natural increases (i.e., excess of births over deaths).
2. **Births.** In 1955 there were 162 registered live births, a decrease of 22 from the previous year. This represents a crude birth rate of 12.8 per 1,000 population, compared with an average rate of 14.9 over the five preceding years.

The adjusted birth rate was 13.9 per 1,000 which may be compared with the adjusted rate of 14.97 for the Administrative County and with the crude rate for England and Wales which was 15.0.

3. **Deaths.** The number of deaths from all causes assigned to the District was 176, an increase of 7 over 1954, giving a crude death rate of 13.9 per 1,000 population. The adjusted death rate was 11.8, the comparable rates for the County and for the whole Country being 13.2 and 11.7 respectively.

From the tables on pages 14 and 15 it will be seen that the greatest toll of life is taken by diseases common to the second half of life, amongst which heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous system and cancer are the most important.

4. **Deaths from Cancer.** There were 18 deaths from malignant neoplasms, but only one of these was due to cancer of the lung and bronchus, as against 5 deaths in the latter category in 1954. Research into the causation of cancer has already revealed that lung cancer is many times more common in heavy cigarette smokers than in non-smokers.

The following table compares the yearly deaths from all forms of cancer with the total deaths in the District, over the last 20 years :—

| Year | Total Deaths | Cancer Deaths | Percentage of Total |
|------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1936 | 138          | 12            | 8.7                 |
| 1937 | 147          | 14            | 9.5                 |
| 1938 | 130          | 15            | 11.5                |
| 1939 | 121          | 5             | 4.1                 |
| 1940 | 154          | 19            | 12.3                |
| 1941 | 148          | 25            | 16.9                |
| 1942 | 153          | 27            | 17.6                |

| Year | Total Deaths | Cancer Deaths | Percentage<br>of Total |
|------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1943 | 165          | 22            | 13.3                   |
| 1944 | 141          | 21            | 14.9                   |
| 1945 | 155          | 24            | 15.5                   |
| 1946 | 133          | 14            | 10.5                   |
| 1947 | 141          | 15            | 10.6                   |
| 1948 | 141          | 21            | 14.9                   |
| 1949 | 153          | 14            | 9.2                    |
| 1950 | 154          | 17            | 11.0                   |
| 1951 | 164          | 21            | 12.8                   |
| 1952 | 147          | 28            | 19.1                   |
| 1953 | 130          | 26            | 20.0                   |
| 1954 | 169          | 31            | 18.3                   |
| 1955 | 176          | 18            | 10.2                   |

It should be noted that the figures before and after 1950 are not strictly comparable. Since 1950 deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia have been added to the group of malignant diseases previously included under the heading of cancer.

5. **Infant Mortality.** During 1955 there were 6 deaths of infants under one year of age, which put up the mortality rate to 37 per 1,000 live births. The average infant mortality rate for the preceding five years was 26.6, the corresponding figure for the Administrative County over the same period being 30.0 per 1,000.

6. **Long-term Trends in Vital Statistics, 1901-1955.** A much clearer picture of the long-term changes in the birth and death rates of the area can be obtained when the individual variations, which for statistical reasons may occur at irregular intervals, have been smoothed out, as in the table on Page 14. This shows the birth and death rates of Lancaster Rural District expressed as averages of each 10 year period between 1891-1950, and from these certain trends can be traced and conclusions drawn with reasonable safety. For example, the birth rate shows signs of becoming stabilised at a much lower level than obtained at the beginning of the century, whereas the death rate has remained comparatively stable throughout. Under these circumstances the annual excess of births over deaths has become insignificant, so that the increase in population, from 9,437 in 1931 to 12,055 in 1951, has been brought about in the main by migration into the area. Again, it will be noted that the death rate of infants at the turn of the century was 125 per 1,000 live births : fifty years later it was less than 40 and is still

declining. The decided downward trend in mortality from respiratory tuberculosis is mentioned elsewhere in the report. By contrast the mortality from cancer (all forms) has shown an apparent increase, but in estimating its significance account must be taken of the ageing structure of the population as well as of the effect of improved facilities for diagnosis and treatment in saving or prolonging life. In general all these trends in the vital statistics of the District conform fairly closely to a similar pattern of changes for the country as a whole.

# VITAL STATISTICS LANCASTER R.D.

The principal vital statistics for the six decennial periods between 1891 and 1950, together with those for each of the last five years, are given below :—

|                | Estimated population (all ages) | Live Births    |                           | Stillbirths    |                             | Deaths (all causes) |                           | Infant Mortality                |                            | Maternal Mortality                |                                    | Cancer (Deaths)          |                           | Respiratory Tuberculosis (Deaths) |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                |                                 | No. Registered | Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n | No. Registered | Rate per 1,000 total births | No. Registered      | Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n | No. of infant deaths registered | Rate per 1,000 live-births | No. of maternal deaths registered | Rate per 1,000 live & still-births | No. of deaths registered | Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n | No. of deaths registered          | Rate per 1,000 est. pop'n |
|                |                                 |                |                           |                |                             |                     |                           |                                 |                            |                                   |                                    |                          |                           |                                   |                           |
| Mean of 10 yrs |                                 |                |                           |                |                             |                     |                           |                                 |                            |                                   |                                    |                          |                           |                                   |                           |
| 1891-1900      | 13,224                          | 374.4          | 28.3                      | §              | §                           | 217.5               | 16.4                      | 46.7                            | 125                        | §                                 | §                                  | §                        | §                         | 16.3                              | 1.23                      |
| 1901-1910      | 8,937                           | 199.7          | 22.3                      | §              | §                           | 120.2               | 13.4                      | 19.4                            | 97                         | §                                 | §                                  | §                        | 0.65                      | 6.4                               | 0.72                      |
| 1911-1920      | *9,001)                         | 165.3          | 18.4                      | §              | §                           | 120.5               | 13.8                      | 13.7                            | 83                         | 0.6                               | §                                  | 10.9                     | 1.25                      | 5.3                               | 0.61                      |
|                | †8,702)                         |                |                           |                |                             |                     |                           |                                 |                            |                                   |                                    |                          |                           |                                   |                           |
| 1921-1930      | 9,332                           | 161.5          | 17.3                      | §              | §                           | 120.3               | 12.9                      | 9.6                             | 59                         | 0.6                               | §                                  | 11.6                     | 1.24                      | 4.2                               | 0.45                      |
| 1931-1940      | *9,829)                         | 135.7          | 13.8                      | 6.6            | 46                          | 135.2               | 13.7                      | 7.8                             | 57                         | 1.0                               | 7.03                               | 15.4                     | 1.56                      | 4.9                               | 0.50                      |
|                | †9,857)                         |                |                           |                |                             |                     |                           |                                 |                            |                                   |                                    |                          |                           |                                   |                           |
| 1941-1950      | 11,002                          | 165.3          | 15.0                      | 3.6            | 21.4                        | 148                 | 13.5                      | 6.5                             | 39.4                       | 0.4                               | 2.37                               | 20                       | 1.82                      | 2.6                               | 0.24                      |
| 1951           | 11,990                          | 185            | 15.4                      | 5              | 26                          | 164                 | 13.7                      | 6                               | 32                         | Nil                               | Nil                                | 21                       | 1.75                      | 3                                 | 0.25                      |
| 1952           | 12,050                          | 173            | 14.4                      | 3              | 17                          | 147                 | 12.2                      | 5                               | 29                         | Nil                               | Nil                                | 28                       | 2.32                      | 2                                 | 0.17                      |
| 1953           | 12,240                          | 188            | 15.4                      | 1              | 5                           | 130                 | 10.6                      | 3                               | 16                         | 1                                 | 5.29                               | 26                       | 2.12                      | 1                                 | 0.08                      |
| 1954           | 12,470                          | 184            | 14.8                      | 3              | 16                          | 169                 | 13.6                      | 2                               | 11                         | Nil                               | Nil                                | 31                       | 2.49                      | 2                                 | 0.16                      |
| 1955           | 12,680                          | 162            | 12.8                      | 4              | 24                          | 176                 | 13.9                      | 6                               | 37                         | Nil                               | Nil                                | 18                       | 1.42                      | 2                                 | 0.16                      |

\* For calculation of birth-rate.

† For calculation of death-rate.

§ Not available.

NOTE—1. From 1950 deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia are included in the total of cancer deaths.

2. The population estimates and numbers of registered deaths for the years 1940-1949, inclusive, relate to civilians only.

3. The decrease in population at the change of the century was due to boundary alterations.

# **CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1955.**

| Number                                            | M. | F. | Total |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|----|-------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....                | 2  | —  | 2     |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other forms .....                | —  | —  | —     |
| 3. Syphilitic disease .....                       | —  | —  | —     |
| 4. Diphtheria .....                               | —  | —  | —     |
| 5. Whooping Cough .....                           | —  | —  | —     |
| 6. Meningococcal Infections .....                 | —  | —  | —     |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....                      | —  | —  | —     |
| 8. Measles .....                                  | —  | —  | —     |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....   | 3  | —  | 3     |
| 10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach .....             | 2  | 2  | 4     |
| 11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....      | —  | 1  | 1     |
| 12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast .....              | —  | 1  | 1     |
| 13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus .....              | —  | 1  | 1     |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..... | 6  | 4  | 10    |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....                   | —  | 1  | 1     |
| 16. Diabetes .....                                | —  | 2  | 2     |
| 17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System .....  | 15 | 10 | 25    |
| 18. Coronary disease, Angina .....                | 20 | 12 | 32    |
| 19. Hypertension with Heart Disease .....         | 5  | 2  | 7     |
| 20. Other Heart Diseases .....                    | 11 | 27 | 38    |
| 21. Other Circulatory Diseases .....              | 4  | 1  | 5     |
| 22. Influenza .....                               | —  | 1  | 1     |
| 23. Pneumonia .....                               | 3  | 2  | 5     |
| 24. Bronchitis .....                              | 5  | 3  | 8     |
| 25. Other diseases of Respiratory System .....    | —  | 1  | 1     |
| 26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....           | 2  | 1  | 3     |
| 27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....      | —  | —  | —     |
| 28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .....                 | 1  | 1  | 2     |
| 29. Hyperplasia of Prostate .....                 | 3  | —  | 3     |
| 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion .....      | —  | —  | —     |
| 31. Congenital Malformations .....                | —  | 1  | 1     |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....  | 5  | 5  | 10    |
| 33. Motor Vehicle Accidents .....                 | 2  | 1  | 3     |
| 34. All other Accidents .....                     | 4  | 3  | 7     |
| 35. Suicide .....                                 | —  | —  | —     |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war .....          | —  | —  | —     |
| Total deaths from all causes .....                | 93 | 83 | 176   |

# DEATHS CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUP AND PARISH — 1955.

| PARISH            | 0- | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 20- | 35- | 45- | 65- | 75- | 80+ | Total |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Ashton-w-Stodday  |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 0     |
| Bolton-le-Sands   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |     |     |     | 1   | 4   | 9   | 6   | 9   | 30    |
| Cockerham         |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     | 3   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 9     |
| Ellel             |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     | 1   | 7   | 7   | 3   | 5   | 23    |
| Heaton-w-Oxcliffe |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 0     |
| Middleton         | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |     | 2   | 6     |
| Overton           |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     | 3   | 1   |     |     | 4     |
| Over Wyresdale    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     | 3   |     |     | 3     |
| Priest Hutton     |    |    |    |    |    |    |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 2   | 3     |
| Scotforth         |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1     |
| Silverdale        |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     | 2   | 4   | 3   | 6   | 12  | 27    |
| Slyne-w-Hest      | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |     |     | 1   |     | 2   | 10  | 4   | 7   | 25    |
| Thurnham          |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     | 1   | 1   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 6     |
| Warton            | 3  |    |    |    |    |    |     | 1   |     | 1   | 6   | 10  | 3   | 5   | 29    |
| Yealand Conyers   |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     | 1   |     | 2   | 2   | 3   | 8     |
| Yealand Redmayne  |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 1   | 2     |
| TOTALS            | 5  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 0   | 2   | 1   | 7   | 32  | 52  | 27  | 49  | 176   |

## **SECTION B.**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.**

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.** Specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Pathologist at the Lancaster Royal Infirmary. Analysis of food and drugs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.** Ambulance Services are administered by the Divisional Health Office of the Lancashire County Council, Health Division No. 2; Victoria House, Regent Street, Lancaster; the telephone number of the ambulance station is Lancaster 3311.

(c) **Domicilliary Services.** The services of District Nurses, Midwives, and Home Helps, to look after patients in their own homes, are provided by the Lancashire County Council, acting as the Local Health Authority. These services for the Lancaster Rural District are administered from the Divisional Health Office—address as above.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.** The following Centres and Clinics catering for the area have been established by the Lancashire County Council:—

School Clinics:

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Thurnham House, Lancaster.

Child Welfare Centres:—

- (1) Market Street, Carnforth.
- (2) Memorial Hall, Hest Bank.
- (3) Parliament Street, Morecambe.
- (4) Euston Road, Morecambe.
- (5) St. John's Ambulance Hall, Heysham.
- (6) The Village Institute, Galgate.
- (7) Gaskell Memorial Hall, Silverdale.

The following clinics are administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee:—

- (1) Tuberculosis—8, Middle Street, Lancaster.
- (2) Venereal Diseases—Special Treatment Centre, Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

(e) **Hospitals.**

**Infectious Diseases:**—Beaumont Hospital, at Slyne Road, Lancaster, is available and is administered by the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee.

Smallpox cases would be notified to the secretary of the Lancaster and Kendal Hospital Management Committee, who would arrange for their disposal to a Smallpox Hospital.

**Other Cases :—**The Lancaster Royal Infirmary, The Queen Victoria Hospital, Morecambe, Lancaster Moor Hospital, Royal Albert Hospital, Bay View Hospital and three private nursing homes.

## SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### CASES NOTIFIED — 1955.

| Disease                                     | All Ages | 0- | 1- | 3- | 5- | 10- | 15- | 25- | 45- | 65 and over | Total Deaths |
|---------------------------------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|--------------|
| Scarlet Fever                               | 6        | —  | —  | —  | 4  | 1   | 1   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Diphtheria                                  | —        | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Measles                                     | 109      | 2  | 28 | 22 | 53 | 1   | 1   | 2   | —   | —           | —            |
| Whooping Cough                              | 12       | 1  | 1  | 1  | 9  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Acute Pneumonia<br>(Primary and Influenzal) | —        | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Meningococcal Infection                     | 1        | 1  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Acute Poliomyelitis<br>(Paralytic)          | 1        | —  | —  | —  | 1  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Erysipelas                                  | —        | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Dysentery                                   | —        | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Food Poisoning                              | 2        | 2  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Tuberculosis                                |          |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |             |              |
| Respiratory                                 | 6        | —  | 1  | 1  | 1  | —   | 1   | 4   | 1   | —           | 1            |
| Meninges and C.N.S.                         | 2        | —  | —  | —  | —  | 2   | —   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Other                                       | 2        | —  | —  | —  | —  | 1   | 1   | —   | —   | —           | —            |
| Total                                       | 144      | 6  | 30 | 24 | 68 | 5   | 4   | 6   | 1   | —           | 1            |

1. **Total Incidence**

During 1955 infectious diseases as a whole were more prevalent than in 1954 ; including tuberculosis, 144 cases were notified as against 84 in the previous year.

2. **Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.**

For the fifth year in succession not a single case of diphtheria has been notified in your district. The remarkable decline in the incidence of this disease over the past 15 years is largely due to the success of the immunisation campaign. There were 6 cases of scarlet fever, the same number as in 1954.

3. **Measles and Whooping Cough.**

109 cases of measles and 12 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, as compared with 45 and 14 respectively for 1954.

4. **Poliomyelitis.**

Only one case of poliomyelitis occurred, resulting in moderate paralysis

5. **Dysentery and Food Poisoning.**

There were no notifications of sonne-dysentery in 1955 as against 6 cases in the previous year. In the early part of the year 2 cases of food poisoning occurred in the district. The source of the infection could not be traced, but the causal agent was *Salmonella typhi-murium*.

6. **Tuberculosis.**

During 1955 there were two deaths from respiratory tuberculosis, one of which came to notice only after death. Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis continues to decline, and statistics for England and Wales as a whole show that deaths from this disease have declined by over 60 per cent. in the last six years. Locally, a similar downward trend is noticeable, as may be seen from the table on Page 14, which gives the mortality rates for respiratory tuberculosis in Lancaster Rural District from 1901.

In contrast the incidence of tuberculosis shows little evidence of declining either nationally or locally. Thirteen new cases were notified during 1955, three more than in the previous year. Reference to the table below will show that there has been no significant change in your district in the notification rate of either the respiratory or non-respiratory forms of this disease over the past 10 years. In these circumstances vigilance and the well-proven methods of prevention are still essential.

7. **Trend of Incidence of Infectious Diseases, 1946-55.**

In the table below the actual numbers of cases of certain infectious diseases notified each year from 1946-55 are compared.

# INCIDENCE OF CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES LANCASTER R.D., 1946-55.

| YEAR                          | Scarlet<br>Fever | Diph-<br>theria | Measles | Whoop-<br>ing Cough | Acute<br>Polio-<br>myelitis | Dysen-<br>tery | Food<br>Poison-<br>ing | Resp.<br>Tubercul-<br>osis | Non-Resp.<br>Tubercul-<br>osis | Tubercul-<br>osis (All<br>Forms) |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1946                          | 3                | 3               | 4       | 5                   | —                           | —              | —                      | 15                         | 1                              | 16                               |
| 1947                          | 2                | 4               | 87      | 29                  | —                           | —              | —                      | 8                          | —                              | 8                                |
| 1948                          | 8                | —               | 40      | 3                   | 1                           | —              | —                      | 9                          | 4                              | 13                               |
| 1949                          | 10               | —               | 33      | 5                   | 2                           | —              | —                      | 6                          | 7                              | 13                               |
| 1950                          | 9                | 1               | 46      | 20                  | 2                           | 1              | —                      | 12                         | 2                              | 14                               |
| Mean of<br>5 years<br>1946-50 | 6.4              | 1.6             | 42.0    | 12.4                | 1.0                         | 0.2            | Nil                    | 10.0                       | 2.8                            | 12.8                             |
| 1951                          | 14               | —               | 138     | 39                  | 1                           | —              | —                      | 10                         | 3                              | 13                               |
| 1952                          | 12               | —               | 13      | 9                   | —                           | 2              | —                      | 10                         | 4                              | 14                               |
| 1953                          | 8                | —               | 65      | 13                  | 3                           | —              | 28                     | 8                          | 1                              | 9                                |
| 1954                          | 6                | —               | 45      | 14                  | —                           | 6              | 2                      | 5                          | 5                              | 10                               |
| 1955                          | 6                | —               | 109     | 12                  | 1                           | —              | 2                      | 9                          | 4                              | 13                               |
| Mean of<br>5 years<br>1951-55 | 9.2              | Nil             | 74.0    | 17.4                | 1.0                         | 1.6            | 6.4                    | 8.4                        | 3.4                            | 11.8                             |

The remarkable decline in the mortality of diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough over the last 10 years or more is well known, and this favourable change has been noted in local as well as in national statistics. Although these four common diseases of childhood have lost most of their terrors, they are all, with the exception of diphtheria as prevalent as ever. Food poisoning made its first appearance in your district in 1953.

**SECTION D.**

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF THE DISTRICT.**

## HOUSING.

### Housing Schemes.

(1) At the end of 1954, post-war Council housing schemes had provided accommodation as detailed below :—

|                      |                                             |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Bolton-le-Sands      | 74 houses and 20 flats.                     |
| Cockerham            | 10 houses.                                  |
| Ellel                | 132 houses, 8 flats and 4 shops and houses. |
| Heaton-with-Oxcliffe | 4 houses                                    |
| Middleton            | 56 houses and 2 shops and houses.           |
| Overton              | 14 houses                                   |
| Over Wyresdale       | 2 houses                                    |
| Priest Hutton        | 4 houses                                    |
| Scotforth            | 4 houses                                    |
| Silverdale           | 26 houses and 8 flats                       |
| Slyne-with-Hest      | 78 houses, 4 flats and 2 shops and houses   |
| Thurnham             | 20 houses                                   |
| Warton               | 76 houses and 16 flats                      |
| Yealand Redmayne     | 28 houses                                   |
| Total (all Parishes) | 528 houses                                  |
|                      | 56 flats                                    |
|                      | 8 shops and houses                          |

Total number of post-war dwellings—end of 1954                      592

Of this total number, 42 houses were built specifically for agricultural workers in ten Parishes.

During 1955, a further 6 houses were completed by the Council and 136 dwellings by private enterprise, that is a total of 142 dwellings.

There are now no Council Housing Schemes in hand or contemplated. The emphasis has moved, in recent years, towards private enterprise development schemes and in this respect good progress has been made. There are three such schemes in well advanced stages in Bolton-le-Sands and one at Slyne-with-Hest.

### Inspections of Dwelling Houses.

|                                                                           |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of houses inspected under the provisions of the Housing Acts ..... | 392 |
| Number of inspections involved .....                                      | 772 |
| Number of houses found not in all respects fit .....                      | 316 |
| Number rendered fit after service of Notice .....                         | 320 |
| Number found to be unfit for human habitation .....                       | 38  |
| Number demolished as a result of formal or informal action .....          | 1   |
| Number close as a result of formal or informal action .....               | 6   |

**Overcrowding.** Nothing can be added to what has been said in previous years, overcrowding no longer presenting a serious problem. It is likely, of course, that an isolated case will be discovered from time to time, and it is felt that such cases should receive high priority, when a Council house in the locality becomes available for letting.

**General Remarks.** During 1955 a survey of the older types of dwellings in the District was carried out, in order that proposals for dealing with unfit houses could be submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. The survey was as complete and detailed as circumstances permitted, though it is very probable that some amendments to the summary of the report, given below, will have to be made, as further information comes to light.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 ..... | 38 |
| Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses .....                                                                                                                   | 10 |
| Number of houses to be demolished or closed within five years .....                                                                                                                                                     | 24 |

Of the 24 dwellings included in the first five years programme, formal or informal procedure has already been set in motion in respect of 8 of them. Thus there remains 16 houses to be dealt with during this period.

The 14 dwellings not included for early action are mostly occupied by aged tenants who have spent a considerable part of their lives in their present accommodation. As and when these dwellings become vacant, it is intended to take immediate action to prevent re-occupation.

1955 saw a real start being made in the carrying out of grant-aided improvement works to dwellings, under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949.

During the year 45 applications by private individuals were made to the Council, involving the improvement or conversion of 46 dwellings. All except two of the applications were approved.

By the end of the year 21 schemes had been implemented, involving 23 dwellings, and in many other cases, a physical start upon the work had been made. It is not surprising to note that of the 46 dwellings involved in the application received, 38 were intended for occupation by their owners and only 8 were intended for letting.

The Council's house-building programme is now completed, at least for the time being, 592 post-war houses and flats having been constructed. At the year-end there were 62 applicants for dwellings on the Council's accepted list. During 1955, 53 dwellings became vacant and were re-let, i.e., an average of about one dwelling per week. Thus the waiting period is likely to remain within reasonable limits, if present trends continue.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

The following Authorities supply water in the district:—

**Lancaster Corporation.** The Parishes of Scotforth, Slyne-with-Hest, Bolton-le-Sands, Middleton, Overton, most of the Parish of Warton, part of Ashton-with-Stodday; and by agreement with the Morecambe and Heysham Corporation part of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe is supplied from the mains of that Corporation which supply Heysham, the rest of the Parish being supplied from the Lancaster Corporation mains.

**Fylde Water Board.** The Parishes of Cockerham, Thurnham, and part of Ashton-with-Stodday.

**Lancaster Rural District Council.** This Council purchases water in bulk from the Thirlmere Pipe Line and supplies the Parishes of Ellel, Priest Hutton, Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne, a small part of Warton and Silverdale.

Part of the Parish of Over Wyresdale is supplied by private mains which are the property of the Earl of Sefton.

### Origin and Particulars of Water.

**Lancaster Corporation.** The water supplied by the Lancaster Corporation is Moorland Water from the gathering grounds in Over Wyresdale. It is subjected to mechanical filtration and chlorination at Langthwaite and Scotforth Filter Houses before distribution and is also treated to bring it to seven degrees of hardness from its original state of about 2 degrees. The Corporation have also a connection to the Thirlmere Pipe Line.

The water supplied to the Warton Parish is obtained from the Reservoir at Withets. The gathering ground is of a Moorland nature but is liable to animal pollution. The Corporation, however, provides an effective and modern chlorination and filtration plant and the bacteriological analyses have shown the water to be good when supplied to the consumer. There is also a connection to the Thirlmere Pipe Line.

**Fylde Water Board.** This is also Moorland Water from the gathering grounds in the Pennine Range.

**Lancaster Rural District Council.** The water obtained from the Thirlmere Pipe line is from Moorlands and of about 2 degrees of hardness. It is understood that rough screening and chlorination takes place near its source. Considerable trouble is experienced

by the incrustation of iron mains and services and the discolouration of the water by Ferric Hydroxide. The latter while not injurious to health can at times render the water almost unpalatable. Apart from any question of treating the water the best remedy for this trouble is the use of cement lined or cement-asbestos pipes. Galvanised iron services have a very limited life of about seven years and the only reasonable substitute, lead, must be used with discretion as the water is at times liable to be plumbo-solvent in action.

The length of main between Hampson Lane end and Salt Oak in the Parish of Ellel, was found to be corroded, following a complaint of discolouration and inadequacy of supply. This pipe was re-laid, and it is intended to extend so as to connect up with the existing main fed from the Bay Horse end at Stirzakers Farm, so as to form a link main. The work is now in progress.

**New Services.** During the year 143 services to new houses have been laid.

A main supply is now provided to 3,773 houses, being rather more than 89% of all the houses in the Disrtict. The remaining 434 houses obtain supplies from other sources such as wells, springs, etc.

**Sampling of Water Supplies.** Samples for bacteriological examination were taken as follows :—

|                                                         |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Lancaster R.D.C., Main supply, Ellel .....              | 1 |
| Lancaster R.D.C., Main supply, Priest Hutton .....      | 1 |
| Lancaster Corporation untreated supply, Scotforth ..... | 1 |
| Abbeystead village private supply .....                 | 1 |

All the above samples were reported satisfactory.

Samples of two other private supplies were both reported unsatisfactory. One was consequently abandoned and advice was given to bring about the necessary improvement to the second supply.

**Prevention of Waste.** Careful scrutiny of weekly flow charts and meter readings has continued as a very necessary routine. During the year 365 tests on lengths of main and house services were made in order to trace the causes of a number of abnormal consumptions indicated by the weekly readings. Thus, on the whole, consumptions in the Southerly and Northerly areas of supply, have been maintained at normal levels.

## SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Details of the methods of drainage and sewage disposal are as follows:—

**Cockerham.** Cockerham village and Housing Site is sewered and the sewage treated by means of a septic tank and rotary filter. The effluent is disposed of into the land drainage dykes.

The plant is considerably over-loaded and, as a result, silting of the dyke outfall occurs. Following representations from the Lancashire River Board and farmers whose land is affected, a scheme has been prepared for the pumping of the treated effluent, via a 4in. diam. rising main direct to the tidal River Cocker, thus eliminating the pollution of the dyke. The scheme will be submitted to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and to the Lancashire County Council with a view to obtaining grant aid under the provisions of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts 1944 to 1955. Meanwhile every endeavour is being made to localise the silting which takes place in the dyke.

**Thurnham (Higher Thurnham).** No details have been obtained of the disposal of the drainage from the few houses at the hamlet of Higher Thurnham, nor is effluent visible at any point. Lower Thurnham is sewered but the crude sewage discharges into the drainage dykes. A proposed scheme for the construction of a small disposal plant was approved by the Ministry, in conjunction with a proposal to erect four houses for agricultural workers. It was later found, however, that there was no demand for the houses and at least for the time being, the sewage disposal scheme is held up.

**Glasson Dock** is sewered and the crude sewage is discharged into the sea. Extensions to the third housing site have been completed.

**Ellel.** Galgate is sewered and the sewage is conveyed by means of a long pipe to discharge in the tidal portion of the River Conder at Conder Green. A little trouble is experienced at times owing to blockages in the long outfall pipe mainly due to the growth of roots through joints that have not been properly made. The installation of pumping plant and construction of a modern sewage works for this village will have to be considered ultimately.

**Dolphinholme** is sewered and the sewage treated by means of a recently constructed septic tank near Common Bank Farm, and two rotary percolating filters by the side of the River Wyre, the effluent being discharged into the River.

**Over Wyresdale.** This Parish being of a scattered nature (1 person to 45 acres) has no drainage system, and no pollution has been found.

**Middleton.** Most of this Parish is now sewered. All sewers from the village and the four Council housing sites drain to the pumping station near Garden Terrace, which ejects the sewage via a rising main and gravitating sewer to the sewage works at Middleton Tower Holiday Camp.

These works are now grossly over-loaded and the effluent is very unsatisfactory during the Summer months. At present it is disposed of into an open dyke which flows some 2 miles to discharge into the Lune estuary. The open dykes are thus badly polluted, especially so, when as frequently occurs, there is no flow, other than the effluent, in the dykes, so that no dilution takes place.

By the end of 1955, the new 6in. rising main effluent pipe from the works had been laid and connected up with Messrs. Trimpell's Ltd., 18in. diam. sea outfall pipe and the pumping station had been constructed as far as possible ready to receive the pumps. Prolonged and most disappointing delay in the delivery of the pumping plant, however, has held up the actual coming into operation of the new system of disposal of the effluent.

**Heaton-with-Oxcliffe.** The old factory area at White Lund is properly drained but unfortunately when it was sold off in lots no steps were taken to preserve the pumping plant.

Consideration has already been given to a possible link up with the Morecambe Corporation sewerage scheme, in order to sewer the factory area, but it was apparent that the limited usefulness of such a scheme did not justify the high costs involved. It is to be hoped, however, that an alternative link up will be available for consideration in the near future, with a view to sewerage the White Lund Hill and Oxcliffe Road residential areas.

**Overton.** Piped sewers exist in Overton but no treatment is given to the outfall which discharges into a main drainage dyke some 100 yards from its junction with the tidal portion of the River Lune. This drainage dyke passes near to the highway at the Globe Hotel and it is at times objectionable. It is recommended that full treatment be given to this sewage as early as possible.

This could be achieved quite simply by means of a pumping station and rising main laid to connect to the existing rising main near Garden Terrace, Middleton. The sewage would thus pass through the Middleton Sewage Works. Such a proposal, however, must wait until the question of disposal of effluent from the works has been effectively dealt with.

Sunderland Point in this Parish has a few private outfall pipes discharging direct into the tidal River Lune. It is considered that this method of disposal is satisfactory.

**Scotforth.** This Parish is also of a scattered nature (1 person to 8½ acres) and has no drainage system.

**Ashton-with-Stodday.** There is no sewage scheme for this Parish which has only 25 houses in it.

**Slyne-with-Hest.** The greatest part of this parish is sewered and the sewage treated at the works at Hest Bank. A small portion of this parish, adjoining the junction of Hest Bank Lane with the main road, is not sewered, but each house has its own septic tank and filter, for the maintenance of which the individual occupier is responsible.

In a previous report attention was drawn to the need for a public sewer, in the following words :—"It is to be hoped that circumstances will eventually allow the sewerage of this and other areas in the District, together with the construction of the necessary pumping plants and rising mains, to link up with existing gravitating sewers. In 1951 such outline proposals were indefinitely postponed by the Ministry, so that at least for the time being, the best will have to be made of existing conditions."

Although no pollution of water courses is possible in normal times, many of these private sewage disposal systems became totally submerged and ineffective for considerable periods owing to the flood water which affected this locality in the latter part of 1954. They were kept under observation, and it was found that they quickly recovered their functioning capacity as the flood waters subsided. This incident, however, which caused no small worry and inconvenience to a number of householders, emphasises the potential danger to public health which may arise, and lends urgency to the need for proceeding with a scheme to sewer this and other similar areas.

**Bolton-le-Sands.** The greater part of this Parish is sewered, the sewage being discharged crude into the mill race channel on the tidal foreshore at the end of St. Nicholas Lane. This outlet, while it does not cause a nuisance, is not up to the modern standards of Sewage Disposal, and it is suggested that some form of treatment, or settlement of solids be given to the sewage before it is discharged.

St. Michael's Lane and part of the Coastal Road is not sewered, the property being drained into septic tanks with filters and cesspools.

At the year end, the greater part of the new 15in. diam relief sewer to relieve surcharging at the Northerly end of the village, had been laid.

**Warton.** The Millhead portion of Warton is sewered and the sewage disposed of to the Carnforth Works. The remainder of the Parish, with the exception of the Western end of Sands Lane, is also sewered and disposed of crude into the semi-tidal waters of the River Keer. It is recommended that at some future date steps be taken to provide some form of treatment for the sewage before it is discharged into the river.

A new tidal valve has been fitted at the end of the sewer outfall pipe, prior to the point of discharge into tidal water, with a view to preventing the "back-flooding" of the system, which occurs during periods of high tides. There will still be surcharging during storm periods, and it would seem that very little can be done to prevent this until a complete scheme for the pumping and treatment of the sewage has been implemented.

**Yealand Conyers.** There are no public sewers in this small Parish. The largest group of houses are, however, drained into a septic tank with rotary percolating filter. No pollution of water courses takes place. Several cesspools are emptied by the Council at the request of the owners and the contents disposed of on the land.

**Yealand Redmayne.** The Housing Site and part of the village is sewered to a disposal tank, which drains into a duplicate system of land drains.

A new effluent disposal area was brought into use during 1955 and, up to the present, it would appear that what had become a very difficult problem in recent years, has been successfully overcome.

**Priest Hutton.** There is no public drainage system for this Parish. All the property is drained into cesspools or septic tanks and filters.

A number of houses in the village have been provided with modern septic tank drainage systems in recent years, and pollution of the stream is now less evident and indeed may no longer occur, except in the vicinity of the school.

**Silverdale.** The whole of Silverdale being built on solid rock has no public sewers, with the exception of the system draining the housing site and a few properties adjoining. Each house has its own cesspool and regular arrangements exist for emptying the cesspools and disposing of the contents on the land. This arrangement has proved very satisfactory and very few complaints are received.

## GENERAL.

There are 3,540 houses on the water carriage system, 2,634 being connected to the sewers and 906 to cesspools, etc. There are also 679 premises which have closets other than water closets.

The policy of the Council to order the conversion of any closet to a water closet and to contribute half the cost of the work involved, as laid down under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, has been pursued almost to its limit since the war. However, with the coming into operation of grant-aided improvement works, under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1949, there was a considerable increase in the number of conversions during 1955, the total number being 20 compared with 3 for the previous year.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The whole of the District is scavenged by direct labour, four motor vehicles being normally in use, and two others available when called upon. It is possible to maintain fairly regularly, a fortnightly collection.

Four controlled tips are in regular use, and in addition, one small tip as a "reserve" when access to the "Over-Lune" area tip is barred by high tides. The details of the tipping arrangements are as follows :—

1. All Parishes to the North of Lancaster. Controlled tip at Cote Stones, Warton. Tipping space available for many years.

2. "Over-Lune" part of the District (i.e. Parishes of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe, Middleton and Overton).

Controlled tip on the tidal marsh between Sunderland Point and Overton, where proper access has been formed, sub-drains laid, and a barrier constructed. The scheme not only provides tipping space for several generations but also will result in the reclamation of some 16 acres of land.

3. Parishes to the South of Lancaster.

The bulk of the refuse from these parishes is deposited on the newly acquired controlled tip near Parkside, in the Parish of Ashton-with-Stodday. Here again, there is sufficient capacity to serve for many years.

4. The remainder, largely from the Abbeystead and Dolphinholme areas, is tipped at Mainstones Quarry in the Parish of Ellel, which is another large site.

**SANITARY INSPECTIONS** (excluding visits made in connection with Housing Act matters as detailed on Page 24).

| Premises visited or purpose of visit. | No. of visits. |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Houses—Public Health matters .....    | 73             |
| Re Water Supplies .....               | 20             |
| Re Drains or Sewers .....             | 366            |
| Re Infectious Diseases .....          | 83             |
| Caravan Sites .....                   | 33             |
| Factories and Workshops .....         | 33             |
| Ice-cream Premises .....              | 20             |
| Other food Premises .....             | 69             |
| Visits re Meat inspection .....       | 61             |
| Miscellaneous visits .....            | 180            |
|                                       | <hr/>          |
| Total number of visits .....          | 938            |

In addition 496 visits of inspection to buildings in course of construction, and 365 visits or tests in connection with the detection of wastage of water were made during the year.

|                                                      |     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of defects or nuisances discovered .....      | 367 |
| Number of defects remedied or nuisances abated ..... | 368 |
| Number of Informal Notices served .....              | 47  |
| Number of Formal Notices served .....                | 16  |
| Legal Proceedings .....                              | Nil |

**Camping Sites.** During 1955, there were 17 licensed sites for moveable dwellings and 12 caravans licensed “individually.” In all, at the height of the Summer Season, there were approximately 1,100 moveable dwellings stationed within the District, and the maximum number of occupiers at any one time was probably rather more than 2,000 persons, 33 visits of inspection were made during the year, and generally, the sites continued to be well conducted.

**Schools.** The sanitary condition of the 17 schools within the District is considerably better than average, on the whole, for a rural area. It is pleasing to report that the dry lavatories, etc., at the Bolton-le-Sands Roman Catholic School have been converted to W.C’s and that similar work is actually in progress at Priest Hutton Church of England School. At this latter school two additional W.C’s and four wash-hand basins are being provided. A new urinal for the boys and four wash-hand basins have been installed at Yea-land Redmayne Church of England School and at Warton Archbishop Hutton School the tender has been let for the provision of two extra W.C’s.

It is disappointing to note that no physical progress has been made regarding the conversion of the dry lavatories, etc., at Abbeystead Church of England school, although the tender for this work has been let for a considerable time.

The problem of lack of adequate drainage to enable conversion at Glasson Dock Church of England School remains.

Regarding water supplies, all schools are supplied from public mains, with the exception of Abbeystead Church of England School. The private supply to this latter school is regularly examined for bacteriological contamination and is found to be consistently satisfactory.

**Swimming Baths.** There are no public baths in the district, but two privately owned. Only one of these, that at the Middleton Tower Holiday Camp, was used during 1955. Two samples of this bath water were taken for bacteriological examination, and both were reported "satisfactory."

**Smoke Abatement.** There are seven factory and works chimneys in the district (excluding Messrs. Trimpell Ltd., and I.C.I. Ltd.) and no action has been necessary regarding smoke abatement.

**Canal Boats.** There are a few Canal Boats which pass through the district but these are inspected by the Lancaster Corporation. No further action is taken by this authority.

**Offensive Trades.** There are no offensive trades carried on in this district.

**Common Lodging Houses.** There is one common lodging House at Millhead, Warton. The general standard is fair. Inspections were frequently made during the year and notices served in order to maintain a reasonable standard.

**Underground Sleeping Rooms and Houses Let in Lodgings.** There are none in the district.

**Shops and Offices:** Inspection and Supervision carried out by the Lancashire County Council Shops Acts Inspectors.

**Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces  
(Factories Act, 1937).**

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Inspections .....     | 33  |
| Number of Written Notices ..... | 3   |
| Prosecutions .....              | Nil |

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk.** As from the 1st October, 1949, the Food and Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944, became operative and the inspection and supervision of dairy-farms was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Chief Milk Advisory Officer of the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee, at Government Buildings, Cop Lane, Penwortham, is now the responsible Officer for these matters. The Local Authority is still responsible for the registration and supervision of dairies other than dairy-farms and of distributors of milk, including the issuing of Dealer's Licences to use certain special designations. In effect, the Local Authority is now able to concentrate upon conditions affecting the milk to be consumed within the District, and a systematic programme of milk sampling for bacteriological and T.B. examination has been in operation since the beginning of 1950. The tabulated details of the bacteriological reports for the year 1955, are given below :—

(a) Raw Milk.

(i) Tuberculosis-biological tests.

No. of samples, 112. No Positive, 2.

No. Negative, 105.

No result, 5.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations—B. Coli.

No. of samples, 119. No. satisfactory, 112.

No. unsatisfactory, 7.

(iii) Methylene Blue reduction test :

No. of samples, 119. No. satisfactory, 105.

N. unsatisfactory, 7.

(b) Heat treated Milk.

(i) Phosphatase test.

No. of samples, 23. No. satisfactory, 23.

No. unsatisfactory, Nil.

(ii) Methylene Blue reduction test.

No. of samples, 23. No. satisfactory, 23.

No. unsatisfactory, Nil.

The two "positive" T.B. biological results were reported immediately to the Lancashire County Council Veterinary Inspector and during the period of investigation of the herd, arrangements were made for the heat treatment of the milk supplies concerned, prior to sale for human consumption.

It is pleasing to note an improvement in the Methylene Blue reduction test results, indicating the better keeping quality, on the whole of raw milk sold within the District. The percentage of unsatisfactory samples in this respect during 1955 was about 6% as compared with 16% for the Administrative County as a whole for 1954, the latest figures available.

Repeated unsatisfactory B. Coli or Methylene Blue reduction tests are reported to the Ministry of Agriculture Milk Advisory Officer who arranges for an inspection to be carried out at the farm involved and for advice to be given where necessary. It is noticeable that the improvement which follows is usually maintained for a long period.

**Ice-Cream.** Of the eight premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice-cream only five were in use during 1955. Special attention was given to these premises, rather than to the twenty-five other premises registered merely for the sale of ice-cream manufactured elsewhere. 20 visits were made during the year and 18 samples were taken for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows :—

|          |         |       |       |       |       |    |
|----------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Reported | Grade 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 13 |
| ,,       | Grade 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4  |
| ,,       | Grade 4 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1  |

This latter sample was repeated and found to be satisfactory.

**Meat.** During the year the bulk of the slaughtering carried out in the District was at the Cockerham private slaughterhouse. A very high standard of quality was maintained.

|                                                                                | Cattle<br>excluding<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep &<br>Lambs | Pigs |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|--------|------------------|------|
| Number killed                                                                  | 60                          | 18   | Nil    | 300              | 74   |
| Number inspected                                                               | 60                          | 18   | Nil    | 188              | 74   |
| Whole carcasses<br>condemned                                                   | Nil                         | Nil  | Nil    | Nil              | 3    |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was<br>condemned                      | 28                          | 10   | Nil    | 30               | 5    |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>disease other than T.B. | 46.6                        | 55.5 | Nil    | 15.9             | 10.8 |
| Tuberculosis only :—<br>Whole carcasses<br>condemned :                         | Nil                         | Nil  | Nil    | Nil              | Nil  |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was<br>condemned                      | 2                           | 2    | Nil    | Nil              | Nil  |
| Percentage of number<br>inspected affected with<br>Tuberculosis                | 3.3                         | 11.1 | Nil    | Nil              | Nil  |
| Number of carcasses<br>found to be affected<br>with cysticercus bovis          | Nil                         | Nil  | Nil    | —                | —    |

**Other Food Premises.** A list of the various types of food premises within the District at the year-end is given below. During 1954, 68 visits of inspection were made, mainly to cafes, hotel kitchens and other such catering establishments.

The coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, in January of 1956, will bring about a considerable increase in these classes of inspections. With the intelligent co-operation of the trade, there can be no doubt that the enforcement of the spirit of the Regulations will bring about improvements where they are most required and will provide additional precautionary measures at other, more up to date establishments. However, I would stress that the aim of the Regulations will not be fulfilled merely by carrying out a few small structural alterations or additions to existing amenities in food premises. The most important factor in the production, handling and sale of clean wholesome food will remain the human element. A palatial kitchen, with neglect, will become filthy and a danger to health, whilst a small, compact kitchen with just essential amenities, under the tender care of a "house-proud" cook will remain pleasing to the eye and a safe-guard against food-poisoning infections.

**List of Food Premises.**

|                                                                          |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| General grocers and provision dealers .....                              | 35    |
| Greengrocers and fruiterers .....                                        | 2     |
| Fishmongers .....                                                        | 1     |
| Meat Shops .....                                                         | 7     |
| Bakers and confectioners .....                                           | 6     |
| Fried fish shops .....                                                   | 6     |
| Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. .... | 16    |
| Licensed premises, clubs,, canteens, restaurants, cafes, etc.            | 50    |
|                                                                          | <hr/> |
|                                                                          | 123   |
|                                                                          | <hr/> |

**Adulteration.** This part of food inspection is dealt with by the Lancashire County Council.

**Bakehouses.** One bakehouse at Galgate and one at Hest Bank became dis-used during 1955, whilst one new one was brought into use at Middleton. There thus remains, five in use in the District, of which four are very well maintained as regards general cleanliness, etc., but some improvement is definitely required in regard to the remaining one. The coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, on the 1st January, 1956, will give additional powers to help raise standards, throughout all food premises

**Rodent Control Work.** This work during 1955, unfortunately, was considerably limited by reason of the prolonged illness of the Council's part-time rodent operator. However, all complaints were promptly attended to and necessary routine duties were carried out. Another workman was trained and before the end of the year the service was back to normal. In all 173 visits were made by the rodent operator to 91 premises. 16 were domestic premises, 27 were Local Authority properties and 44 were farms or small-holdings.



